

1940



ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE WORK OF THE
Public Health Department
OF THE
Lymm Urban District Council

BY

JAMES BENNETT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health



ALSO THE

ANNUAL REPORT
of the Sanitary Inspectors:

DAVID MORT, M.INST. M. & CY. E., A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.
and
JOHN CARTER, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.



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LYMM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1940

Chairman :

MR. H. KENZIE, J.P.,
205 Rush Green Road, Lymm.

Vice-Chairman :

MR. S. ACKERLEY, 4 Woodside Road, Lymm.

Chairman of Sanitary Committee :

MR. J. H. DYE, "Elton," Brook Road, Lymm.

Councillors :

NAME	WARD
MR. J. H. HOLT	Booth's Hill
MR. E. LLOYD	do.
MR. OWEN DAVIES	do.
MR. H. KENZIE	Heatley
MR. N. WORTHINGTON	do.
MR. T. C. CLAYTON	do.
MR. S. ACKERLEY	Lymm
CAPT. A. LINDSAY WATT, J.P., C.C.	do.
MR. J. F. DUGDALE	do.
MR. G. H. PARKER	Statham
MR. J. H. DYE	do.

Clerk to the Council :

MR. T. ASHCROFT.

Public Health Officials :

DR. JAMES BENNETT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.(LOND.), D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Part Time

MR. D. MORT, M.INST. M. & CY. E., A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.
SURVEYOR AND SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

MR. J. CARTER, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.
SANITARY AND BUILDING INSPECTOR

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LYMM.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my fifteenth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of your District for the year 1940.

The year has again been an exceptionally busy one owing to the various and increased duties connected with Air Raid Precautions Services together with the Public Health Administration. Nevertheless, all the usual routine work has been well maintained. All immediately essential matters connected with infectious diseases, food, water, scavenging, &c., have received the fullest attention possible, whilst salvage work has added considerably to the work of your officials.

The population, owing to the presence in the District of certain evacuees from Stretford and 130 refugees from Guernsey, has fluctuated, but is given by the Registrar General at 6,237, an increase of 172.

The live Birth Rate for the year, viz., 13.47, is low compared with that for England and Wales, which is 14.6. The corrected Death Rate, 11.39, is higher but is lower than that of England and Wales, which is 14.3.

The Infant Mortality Rate (1 death only) is 11 against 55 for England and Wales. The Maternal Mortality Rate is nil, against that for England and Wales, 2.16.

There were 11 deaths from Cancer. The average number for the last 13 years is 9. The average age was 66 years for males and 65 for females.

Apart from Measles and Whooping Cough, which were made compulsorily notifiable and of which there were 18 cases, the total of all other notified infectious diseases was again very low, being only 17 against 19 in 1939. There was 1 death only, namely from Tuberculosis. The Infant Mortality and Notified Infectious Diseases are both the second lowest on record.

CHLORINATION OF WATER SUPPLIES.

In view of the danger to health arising from the possibility of bomb damage, sabotage &c., of water supplies, it became clearly necessary that some form of protection to this most essential service should be afforded. The most efficient and safe method is undoubtedly that of chlorination, which, even

in very minute doses, acts as a powerful agent against harmful organisms. This system, recommended by the Ministry of Health, marks a big advance in the safeguarding of the public health throughout the country, and has been adopted in Lymm.

EVACUEES AND REFUGEES.—A varying number, about 50 to 80 of those children received from Stretford in September, 1939, remained in the District and, in addition, following enemy occupation of the Channel Islands, two schools from Guernsey were billeted in Lymm. One was a private (Froebel) school of 34, the other the St. Martins elementary school (about 100 including teachers). It is satisfactory to note that the health of the District was not at all adversely affected by the presence of these strangers. Practically all the Guernsey children had been immunised against Diphtheria whilst still attending school in Guernsey.

I wish to thank all Members of the Council, the Clerk, Staff and the Sanitary Inspectors for their willing co-operation, and also those innumerable citizens who have again rendered such invaluable service in connection with local Air Raid Precaution matters and the reception and billeting of evacuees.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

JAMES BENNETT,

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area : 4,241 acres.

Rateable Value at end of 1940, £34,878.

„ „ „ „ „ 1939, £34,908.

Product of Penny Rate, £136 10s. 0d.

Number of Houses end of 1940, 1,845.

POPULATION.—The Registrar General's Estimate is 6,237. At the 1931 Census the total was 5,643.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	{ Legitimate 82 Illegitimate 2	52 1	30 1	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1940 ...
Stillbirths	.....	3	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Deaths	.....	71	38	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	Nil	Nil
No. 30 Other Puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
Total „ „ „ —	—	—

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births	11.62
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	11.77
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	11
„ „ Measles (all ages)	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality
during the year :—

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year requiring comment, nor was there any specially noteworthy sickness or invalidity.

**CAUSES OF DEATH IN LYMM URBAN DISTRICT
for 1940.**

CAUSES OF DEATH. Civilians only.								Males.	Females.
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	33
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Other Tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	7
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Cerebral haemorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	6
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Acute encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	6
Deaths of Infants	Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
under 1 year..	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Total Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53	31
Legitimate..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52	30
Illegitimate...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1

POPULATION : 6,237.

**BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES
for the past 10 years in Lymm U.D.:**

	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Birth Rates	14.9	14.4	15.7	12.3	12.9	13.71	13.76	14.5	12.06	13.47
Death Rates	12.3	13.0	13.1	10.6	9.8	10.70	15.45	10.40	8.88	11.39
Inf. Mort. Rates	61	73	21	nil	53	36	43	58	25	11

WARD DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Booth's Hill Ward.....	13	16	22	24	17	15
Heatley Ward	16	21	27	14	17	16
Lymm Ward	17	23	28	17	15	30
Statham Ward	11	4	15	7	5	10
Total ...	57	64	92	62	54	71

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1.—STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT—see page 1.

CLERICAL ASSISTANCE—Typists services as required.

2.—(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Samples of Milk, Water and Blood.—Public Health Laboratories, York Place, Manchester.

Throat and Nose Swabs.—Warrington Public Health Department.

Tuberculosis Sputum.—Cheshire County Council.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

For Infectious Diseases.—Warrington County Borough.

For Accidents and General Illnesses.—Altrincham Borough Council.

The Ambulance facilities are quite adequate for general purposes.

For War purposes, two Ambulances provided by Cheshire County Council kept at High Bank, Lymm, are available night and day, whilst two adapted Ambulances from trade vehicles are on call for emergencies.

(c) THE DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION maintains one nurse.

(d) INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.—This has been converted into a First Aid Post, but the ordinary routine work of the Centre was carried on.

The Annual Report of Health Visitor is as follows:

Number Registered since the start	1391
New Members, 1940	59
Deaths, 1940	0
Total on Register (including 59 New Members)	278
Attendances (Babies and Toddlers)	992
Consultations (Babies and Toddlers)	303
Number of Evacuees attended	9

The Council is not the Authority for Maternity and Child Welfare.

(e) HOSPITALS.

Infectious Diseases.—Warrington County Borough.

Non-Infectious Cases.—Warrington, Altrincham and Manchester Hospitals.

Public Assistance Cases.—Knutsford.

Mental Cases.—Macclesfield.

(f) MORTUARY.—During the year the Public Mortuary was used 10 times. Provision is made for seven bodies.

Provision for War Casualties.—An additional temporary Mortuary has been provided for 20 bodies in view of possible War casualties.

1.—(i) WATER.—The public water supply is from three deep sand-stone wells owned and worked by the Council. There were no new sources or improvement to existing sources and no extension of mains.

The supplies have been satisfactory in quality and quantity excepting that produced from No. 1 Well, which was out of action for a time whilst undergoing alterations.

After these alterations the water was found to be not satisfactory and further structural alterations were made and the quality of the water improved. In view of the possibility of damage to water mains by enemy action, the whole of the water supply for the District is now chlorinated and is quite satisfactory.

The water is controlled by bacteriological and chemical examination. Five bacteriological and two chemical examinations of the No. 1 Well were made.

Town supply was laid on to two cottages in Spring Lane, Heatley, after samples of the old well had been taken and were found to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory. This necessitated the laying of 1,600 feet of lead piping towards which the owners contributed £40.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal in all parts of the area are adequate.

2.—RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The two sewage works were constantly under supervision in order to check the pollution of streams in the area. The two works gave satisfactory effluents to the Lancashire Rivers Board.

3.—(i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—The number of conversions from the conservancy system to water carriage was nil. About 98 per cent. of the houses in the district are provided with clean water closets, leaving only 36 on the conservancy system.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The collection of domestic waste, trade waste and street sweepings is carried out by direct labour with one two-ton petrol-driven vehicle. No comprehensive system for the collection of trade refuse under Section 73 Public Health Act, 1936, has been undertaken, but in a few instances contracts exist where large quantities of refuse have to be removed.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.
INSPECTIONS BY SANITARY AND BUILDING INSPECTOR.

NATURE OF INSPECTIONS	Number	Number of Notices Served		Results			REMARKS
		Statut'y	Informal	Notices compl'd with	Out-standing	Legal Proceedings	
GENERAL SANITATION.							
Water Supply	21	—	4	4	—	—	
Drainage of Existing Buildings..	—	5	10	15	—	—	
Stables and Piggeries... ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Fried Fish Shops	12	—	—	—	—	—	
Canal Boats	6	—	—	—	—	—	
Tents, Vans and Sheds	4	—	1	1	—	—	
Factories	11	—	—	—	—	—	
Workshops and Workplaces	12	—	—	—	—	—	
Outworkers	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Public Conveniences	32	—	—	—	—	—	
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Refuse Collection	20	3	7	10	—	—	
Refuse Disposal (Tips, &c.) ...	11	—	—	—	—	—	
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act	4	—	—	—	—	—	
Smoke Observations	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Schools	6	—	—	—	—	—	
Shops	121	—	—	—	—	—	
Miscellaneous...	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ditches and Watercourses ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	
Infectious Disease Enquiries, Disinfections, &c.	8	—	—	—	—	—	
HOUSING.							
Number of Houses Inspected under Public Health Acts ...	137	6	58	61	3	—	
Visits paid to above Houses ...	146	—	—	—	—	—	
Number of Houses Inspected under Housing Acts ...	25	—	—	—	—	—	
Visits paid to above Houses ...	83	—	—	—	—	—	
OVERCROWDING							
Number of Houses Inspected ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Visits paid to above Houses ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	
VERMINOUS PREMISES.							
Number of Houses Inspected ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	
Visits paid to above Houses ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	
Miscellaneous Housing Visits ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	
INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOOD.							
Total Meat Inspection Visits ...	170	—	—	—	—	—	
Bakehouses	10	—	—	—	—	—	
Cowsheds, Dairies & Milkshops	37	—	—	—	—	—	
Ice Cream Premises	7	—	—	—	—	—	
Miscellaneous Food Visits... ...	37	—	—	—	—	—	
Street Vendors & Hawkers Carts	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Visits in connection with Sampling—Milk...	10	—	—	—	—	—	
Water	8	—	—	—	—	—	
Total Building Inspections... ... (for details see page 15)	972	14	80	91	3	—	
	716	—	—	—	—	—	
	1688	14	80	91	3	—	

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES.—Regular supervision of shops and offices in the District was maintained but no action was taken under the Shops Act, 1934, or the Public Health Act, 1936.

(v) CAMPING SITES.—There are no camping sites in the area and no licences issued under Section 269 Public Health Act, 1936.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.—All factory chimneys in the area were from time to time observed, but no action was required.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.—There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public in the area.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—No action required.

4.—SCHOOLS.—The sanitary conditions and water supply of schools are generally satisfactory. There is one denominational school in Sandy Lane where there is an undesirable trough closet. The question of conversion was considered but this, for various reasons, was deferred.

Action taken in respect of Infectious Diseases among School Children. School returns are regularly scrutinised and visits were made by the Medical Officer when definite outbreaks occurred. There was no school closing during the year though cases of German Measles and Mumps were fairly numerous. In the Spring, Influenza was prevalent.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

Under the stress of war conditions housing inspections were limited, but all complaints were investigated. Nevertheless, 229 inspections were made and 20 informal and 11 statutory notices served, 27 of which were complied with.

Besides the introduction of evacuees and refugees, other exigencies of the War caused the local population to be greatly increased. As is always the case, the greater the population the greater call on the Sanitary Department. The question of the adequacy of sanitary conveniences, refuse removal, &c., was closely watched.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.—PART IV.

OVERCROWDING.—No action taken or required.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—All farms and dairies were inspected.

RETAILERS AND PRODUCERS.

Milk retailers (including producer-retailers) ...	25
Producers (total)	32

Special Designations.

“Tuberculin Tested” Producers	2
“Accredited” Producers	19

No samples of Graded Milk were taken during the year in order to avoid duplication, as this work is undertaken by the County Council.

SAMPLES OF MILK EXAMINED FOR TUBERCULOSIS.

Bulk samples collected at the farm	10
Number reported positive	1

SUMMARY OF MILK SAMPLING FOR TUBERCLE BACILLI, 1928-40.

Year.	Number of Samples.	Number Positive.	Percentage Positive.
1928	32	7	22.0
1929	34	2	6.0
1930	33	1	3.0
1931	40	7	17.5
1932	44	3	7.0
1933	46	1	2.1
1934	48	3	6.3
1935	34	1	3.0
1936	26	0	0.0
1937	47	2	4.25
1938	30	1	3.33
1939	29	2	6.90
1940	10	1	10.00

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—All slaughter houses, shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is prepared were from time to time inspected.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND MEAT SEIZED.

With the coming into force of the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940, on the 15th January, 1940, all private slaughter-houses were closed and all meat coming into the District was sent from Government controlled abattoirs where inspection was previously carried out.

Notwithstanding this, certain meat on arrival was found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered, i.e. :—

- 2 forequarters and 2 hindquarters of beef (decomposition).
- 2 hindquarters of veal (extensive bruising).

(c) PARTICULARS OF SAMPLES.

The undermentioned particulars of samples obtained in the Lymm Urban District during 1940 have been supplied by the courtesy of Mr. Stacey Hallard, Chief Inspector of the County Weights and Measures Department.

Name of Sample.	Number obtained.	not up to the recognised standard of quality.
Almonds, Ground ...	1	—
Butter	1	—
Coffee	1	—
Cream, Tinned	1	—
Dried Prunes	1	—
Fish Paste	1	—
Ginger, Ground.....	1	—
Glycerine	1	—
Milk	8	—
Olive Oil	1	—
Castor Oil	1	—
	—	—
	18	—
	—	—

The Public Analyst reported all samples as genuine or up to the recognised standard of quality, which results are highly satisfactory.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The prevalence of notifiable diseases was low. The average for the previous 11 years was 29. There was nothing noteworthy as to source or spread of infection.

Under the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1940, Measles and Whooping Cough were made notifiable during the year. Excluding Measles, of which there were 18 notifications, there were only 17 of all other diseases against 19 in the previous year.

The Council provides, free of cost, serum for artificial immunisation against Diphtheria.

The question of immunisation at special clinics was under consideration when war came on and was deferred in consequence. At the end of the year this question was re-opened, and it was decided to commence clinics early in 1941.

The prophylactic issued to general practitioners was Alum Precipitated Toxoid.

No arrangements have yet been made for the typing of pneumococci. During the year 23 swabs were submitted for examination for Diphtheria of which one proved positive.

AGE GROUPS OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1940.

CASES NOTIFIED.

DISEASE.	Total Cases at all ages	Years										Hospital				
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total Deaths in Hospital of Persons belonging to District	Total Cases removed to Hospital	
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Pneumonia...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Lethargica	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	4	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Measles	18	—	2	1	2	3	7	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS ...	35	—	3	1	2	3	9	2	4	5	4	1	1	3	7	1

One case of Cerebro-spinal Meningitis included above was treated privately at the Warrington Infirmary Nursing Home.

TUBERCULOSIS.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1940.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35—45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	1	3	1	—	—	1	—	—
	4		1		1		—	

The ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths was nil.

The notification of Tuberculosis in the District is generally efficient. Whenever there is any undue delay the attention of the Doctor concerned is called to the matter.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the District.

No action required during the year regarding employees suffering from Tuberculosis.

SECTION G.— FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Whilst the hitherto usual Home Office Form 572 has been discontinued, the following action was taken during the year, viz. :—

Observations on the sanitary conditions and other matters were made but no action was required.

SANITARY INSPECTORS' REPORT.

Year ended 31st December, 1940.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LYMM.

Gentlemen,

We have the honour to present our Annual Report relating to Sanitary and Public Health work carried out in the Urban District of Lymm during the year ended 31st December, 1940, together with the report of the Building Inspector.

Details are embodied in the Medical Officer of Health's Report, to which reference can be made, in order to bring our report into line with the Ministry of Health Circular 1961. These are dealt with in the following order :—

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

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(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.....	7
2. Rivers and Streams	7
3. (i) Closet Accommodation	7
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(iv) Shops and Offices	9
(v) Camping Sites	9
(vi) Smoke Abatement	9
(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools	9
(viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs	9
4. Schools	9

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

BUILDING BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

Buildings completed during 1940		Plans submitted 1940	
Semi-detached houses	3	Terrace houses ...	1
Detached houses ...	—	Detached houses ...	5
Detached houses with garages ...	3	Semi-detached houses	3
Garages ...	4	Garages (brick) ...	2
Farm Buildings ...	—	Dairies and Cowsheds	1
Business Premises ...	1	Temporary Buildings...	7
Improved or additional Sanitary Accommodation ...	—	Business Premises ...	1
Miscellaneous ...	—	Miscellaneous ...	7
	—	Drainage ...	3
	—		—
	11		30
	—		—

TABULAR STATEMENT OF INSPECTIONS.

Description	No. of Inspections	Notices served regarding contraventions of byelaws
General Inspections including foundations, footings, damp-proof course and site concrete	62	—
Drainage of new premises	4	—
Visits to Council houses regarding complaints of defects and inspection of repairs	650	—
Survey of electrical installations and fittings in Council houses	—	—
	716	—
	—	—

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

	Page
(a) Milk Supply	9
(b) Meat and Other Foods	10
(c) Adulteration, &c.	11

As in our report of the previous year, the activities of the Public Health Department have largely been affected by conditions arising out of the present conflict. Shortage of material and control of others have prejudiced to a large extent the

carrying out of any large scale housing repairs, only essential and urgent repairs being undertaken. The movement of numbers of people into the District has meant a careful watch being kept on conditions in the homes with special reference to over-crowding, but we are pleased to say that no infringements of the law in respect of the latter were discovered.

It is not proposed to give a resumé of the spate of official orders, memoranda, &c., received during the year, but two which bear directly on the health of the community are deserving of comment, viz. :—

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE SPREAD OF ALIMENTARY INFECTIONS.

This outlines the measures which can usefully be taken to protect the public against the spread of the diseases commonly conveyed by food, i.e., Diseases of the Enteric Group, Dysentery, Food Poisoning and Intestinal Parasitism.

As one of the commonest causes of the spread of the enteric diseases is the contamination of food, including milk, stricter control of food premises and dairies with regard to cleanliness is recommended, and visits were paid accordingly.

LICE AND SCABIES.

These two most helpful memoranda stress the importance of Sanitary Authorities actively pursuing methods of preventive action against these most distressing conditions and for securing treatment and disinfection of premises where these have been found to exist.

The best results are secured by the co-ordination of the three services concerned — disinfection of clothing, cleansing of persons, and fumigation of premises. This is not always possible as we have no cleansing station and clothing has to be sent out of the District for disinfection.

During the year a modern system of serving Preliminary Notices was introduced, the card index system extended and a new filing system adopted. This has proved of incalculable value in the saving of time and has added to the efficiency of the Department.

Once again we wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council, our fellow officials and their staffs for their ready assistance and co-operation at all times.

We are,

Your obedient Servants,

D. MORT,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

J. CARTER,

Sanitary and Building Inspector.

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